

U.S. Patent Appl'n. No. 10/602,748
Response to Office Action Dated July 14, 2004
Am't Dated December 14, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18 are currently pending, with claims 1, 9 and 14 being the only independent claims. Claim 17 is canceled herein. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 14, 15 and 18 are amended generally to attend to formal matters. No new matter has been added.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants request consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement that is filed concurrently herewith under separate cover.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,585,073 (Lorenz) and, separately, U.S. Patent Appl'n. No. 2004/0077464 (Feldman et al.). Claims 9-13 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. SIR H1,831 (Kelley et al.). Claims 14-18 were rejected as being anticipated separately by U.S. Patent No. 4,730,691 (Grigg), U.S. Patent No. 6,250,844 (Sartler et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 5,794,730 (Kamen). The rejections respectfully are traversed.

A claim is only anticipated if each and every claim element is found in a single prior art reference. However, not one of Lorenz, Feldman et al., Kelley et al., Grigg, Sartler et al. and Kamen discloses or suggests all of the features of independent claim 1 or 14, and Kelley et al., in particular, fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 9.

With regard to claim 1, not one of these references discloses or suggests a control station including a first control tower comprising a first joystick and a second control tower comprising a second joystick, wherein each of the first and second control towers includes upper and lower members having upper and lower ends, *the lower end of each of the upper members being pivotally coupled to the upper end of a corresponding one of the lower members.*

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With regard to claim 9, Kelley et al. does not disclose or suggest first and second control towers and *an adjuster assembly* configured to lock the control towers in different fore-and-aft pivotal positions.

With regard to claim 14, not one of Lorenz, Feldman et al., Kelley et al., Grigg, Sartler et al. and Kamen discloses or suggests a pair of control towers, a pair of joysticks and *a pair of one-piece elastomeric boots surrounding the pair of control towers*.

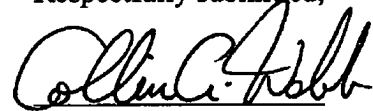
In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 14 are allowable over each of Lorenz, Feldman et al., Kelley et al., Grigg, Sartler et al. and Kamen or any combination of them, and claim 9 is allowable over Kelley et al. Moreover, the dependent claims are deemed allowable over them by virtue of their dependence from the independent claims and the additional features the dependent claims recite. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections.

No fee, other than the \$450 fee for the extension of time, is believed due in connection with this paper. However, should it be determined that any additional fee is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 14-0780.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New Holland, Pennsylvania office by telephone at (717) 355-4954.

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Respectfully submitted,


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